

TRANSLATION

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 10 622	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/EP2005/000367	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 15.01.2005	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 05.02.2004
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C05G3/00 B01J2/04 C05C9/00		
Applicant UHDE GMBH		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of _____ sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising: a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of <u>1</u> sheets, as follows: <input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-5 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* 1-5 _____ received by this Authority on 08.06.2005 with letter of 03.06.2005
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/2, 2/2 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-5</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	<u>1-5</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-5</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)			
Reference is made to the following documents:			
D1: US-A-5965071			
D2: US-B-6179893			
D3: EP-A-0908430			
<p>Amended claims 1-5 correspond to the deletion of the original claim 2 and the incorporation of the subject matter thereof into claims 1, 3, 4 and the renumbering of all the claims. As a result, the subject matter of the present claims 1-5 meets the requirements of PCT Rule 19(2).</p>			
<p>The subject matter of the present claims 1-5 meets the requirements of PCT Article 33(2) since none of the documents cited discloses all the features of the abovementioned claims, in particular a self-regulating centrifugal pump.</p>			
<p>However, the subject matter of the present claims 1-5 infringes PCT Article 33(3).</p>			
<p>The closest prior art is D1. It discloses a process for</p>			

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Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

preparing granulated urea, in which a synthesis unit (figure 1 unit 1: mixer), a vaporizer unit (figure 1 unit 2: evaporator) and a granulation unit (figure 1 unit 5: granulating column or facility) are used during the preparation. The product leaves the synthesis unit as an aqueous solution (column 3, lines 30-33) and is conveyed firstly into the vaporizer unit and subsequently into the granulation unit.

As can be seen from the prior art, the task of conveying material in such a process is performed basically by pumps (e.g. D2 figure 1 unit 8, figure 2 unit 110; D3 figure 1 unit 6). A person skilled in the art would therefore assume that a pump would also be present in the process disclosed in D1. The choice of a "centrifugal pump" is not associated with any visible effect and is obvious. To be "self-regulating" is not a defining feature since all the comparable systems are automated. The subject matter of claim 1 therefore does not involve an inventive step.

Furthermore, the subject matter of dependent claims 2-5 does not appear to contain any inventive features.